

America's Tank Division



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In Action Series

1st Armored Division

SPRING EDITION 2006

1st Armored Division



Workhorse leads the way to Guinness World Record

Story, Photo and Illustration by PFC Tanya C. Polk

Screams and shouts echoed the street as Hanau based Soldiers cheered on their new world champion. SPC Jake Truex, an all vehicle repairer with 127th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, broke the Guinness World Record for the fastest 5,000 meter ruck-run at the Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Feb. 14.

SPC Truex, with a 40 pound ruck sack strapped to his back, attempted to break two world records- the fastest mile and the fastest 5,000 meters. He has been preparing for his place in history since November, 2005.

SPC Truex described his intense workout routine, "I normally get up at 5 a.m. and go for my morning run- which is usually four to six miles. At lunch, I work on core exercises such as sit-ups and pushups. After work, I go for another run with the ruck on. I do this three days a week," he said.

The physically fit 178 pound Soldier assured viewers that his ruck sack truly weighed 40 pounds as he stepped onto the scale prior to the run.

"I filled my ruck with a seven pound sleeping bag, 20 pound bag of rice and the rest is all plate weights," said SPC Truex.

At 218 pounds, SPC Truex took a stab at the world record.

Although falling just nine seconds shy of the mile record of 00:05:35, the "Workhorse" Soldier raced past the current 5,000 meter record of 00:25:15 in only 00:22:20.

"(The mile attempt) was a devastating blow," said SPC Truex. "But I knew that all these people came out here to see me do this, so I wasn't going to miss the next one. I thought to myself, 'my leg's going to have to fall off before I lose.'"

"All these people" who witnessed SPC Truex's record breaking run included a strong support from his chain of command.

"When we originally received SPC Truex in our unit we noticed he was well above the normal Army standards as far as running and physical fitness," said 1SG Michelle Thomas, Headquarters Support Command first sergeant. "Rain, sleet and snow, he runs constantly."



Cheered on by his fellow Soldiers, SPC Jake Truex, 127th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, breaks the world record, 5-kilometer ruck-run in Hanau, Feb. 14. SPC Truex, equipped with a 40 pound ruck-sack, ran the 5K in 22 minutes and 20 seconds, beating the former record of 25 minutes and 15 seconds.

The support SPC Truex received extended globally. His best friend in Oregon stayed up to hear his results. SPC Truex was also in contact with his mother after gaining his record-holding title.

"My inspiration is to make a better life for my mom, my dad, my brother and my sister,"

said SPC Truex. "They've worked hard their whole lives and they deserve much better."

As SPC Truex is rounding up his time in the Army, he has plans on breaking more records back in his hometown, Albany, Oregon.

"I would love to be the world champion for the Xteera Triathlon," said SPC Truex. "I'm going home to

train full time as a triathlete."

"I know one day in my lifetime I will be sitting on the couch and the Olympics are going to come up, and I'm going to see Truex run across the finish line," said 1SG Thomas.

"And I get the proud honor of saying, 'that's my Soldier.'"



Black Hawk Gunnery

Story and photos by PFC Tanya C. Polk

The Black Hawks of America's Tank Division excelled at the Tank and Bradley tables of the Joint Multinational Training Center. For the Bandits of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, their big game began on Jan. 16 on Table VIII.

"Tank Table VIII is the super bowl for tank crews," said SSG Patrick Chaplin, assistant master gunner, 1-1 Cav. "Table VIII is what they all look forward to up until this point.

"This is the capstone for crew gunnery," said MAJ Mark Camarena, squadron executive office, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop.

"Prior to this, these crews have done everything from home station maintenance training to the tank crew proficiency course as well as all the preliminary tables," Camarena added.

During Table VIII, Soldiers fire off their M1A1 Abrams tanks and Bradleys at several pop up targets during both day and night hours.

"The targets are plywood, pop-up targets," said SSG Chaplin. "Once a target is hit, whether it's a direct hit or

1-1 Cav. Excels Through Tank and Bradley Tables

not, it will fall down. If missed, the target will not fall down."

While the troops fire and fight from their vehicles, their actions are monitored from the tower.

"The tower is your command and control area. Nothing is done without the tower's permission," said SSG Chaplin. "Here, I also ensure that safety comes first and that everyone is in the proper uniform so that no one gets hurt."

Not only can SSG Chaplin ensure safety from the tower, but monitoring personnel can better ensure the accuracy of fired rounds through the Tower Server

System.

"(The Tower Server System) records what the tanks do with video and audio. We use a camera to make sure that there are no mistakes being made as far as a target hit or a target missed," said SSG Chaplin.

The Bandits were challenged with several targets.

"We have some defense engagements and some offence engagements," said SPC John Cain, tank driver.

"Defense engagements are stationary and fought from a battle position. Offense engagements are in motion and as a driver you just try and maintain a steady platform for the gunner," said SPC Cain.

It took a combined effort for the Bandits to fight these targets.

"Everyone in the tank is important. We only have four crew members, so if one of our crew members goes down then we're down a fourth of our capability," said SPC Cain. "It doesn't matter whether you are a driver, loader, gunner or TC (tactical commander). All are important to the overall mission."

It's not only tankers who fired on Tank Table VIII. SPC Johnnie Jones III, a mechanic, got the chance to join a tank crew.

"I didn't get very much prep time because I was busy working on the tanks," said SPC Jones, "but, it's great to get a chance to do something you don't do every day."

After the crews fired and fought their vehicles, the TSS made it possible for them to see exactly what and how they did in an after action review.

...Continued next page...

The Bandits of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, fire their M1A1 Abrams Tank during Table VIII at the Joint Multinational Training Center in Grafenwoehr, Germany, Jan. 16.





LTC John A. Peeler, 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment commander, awards the top tank crew with a Distinguished Iron Warrior Crew Badge. These Bandits also received the Army Achievement medal for their accomplishments.

The Soldiers are then scored based on everything they do. "If they say the wrong fire command they could lose points," said SGT Bradley Odonnell, operations noncommissioned officer.

After the crews qualify on the range, it's a time to celebrate.

"In 1-1 Cav. we like to go the extra step to recognize excellence in order to promote esprit de corps within the squadron," said MAJ Camarena.

"This is a culmination of hard work over the last six months," said 1SG David Glen, Bandit Troop first sergeant.

In recognizing the excellence, the Cav. invites its qualifying troops to the Black Hawk Den.

"The Black Hawk Den is a tradition of 1-1 Cav., and basically it's to recognize all crews that qualify first run on Tank Table VIII.

It also recognizes those crews who go above and beyond the standard and either qualifies superior or distinguished," said MAJ Camarena.

"If you qualify distinguished, which is the highest

grade on Tank Table VIII, you get a badge that you wear everyday on your uniform in Budingen that recognizes you as a member of a distinguished crew," continued MAJ Camarena. "You also sign the Role of Honor which is forever kept in our historical room."

"If you ever visit Budingen, you'll recognize that when a Soldier is wearing his spur and his stets, and he's got his distinguished badge on his uniform that he stands up a little taller, he walks a little prouder, he calls cadence a little louder," said MAJ Camarena.

"And, that's the whole reason that we recognize the traditions of the Cav."

Tank crews who shoot over 900 out of a possible 1000 points, also receive an Army Achievement medal.

"It's a good feeling to know that your crew went down, you shot the best you could, you fought the tank, and you qualified the on the first time," said SPC Cain.

"We worked together while we were out there shooting on all the tables. We had some hard times, but we qualified distinguished and it was worth it," said SPC Jones. "It just feels good to be a part of the team."

Mighty Main a part of Black Hawk Family

Story and photo by PFC Tanya C. Polk

As the Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division continue to power rounds down the gunnery tables of the Joint Multinational Training Command, behind the scenes Soldiers of the 123rd Main Support Battalion are helping to keep the Black Hawks' wheels turning and their engines running.

"These are the unsung heroes," said Chief Warrant Officer Rick Wahl, Company C, 123rd MSB shop officer. "123rd MSB is vital to 1-1 Cav's gunnery," said SSG Stephen Mose, 123rd Combat Service Support Team noncommissioned officer in charge.

"And, we're glad to be here to help them sustain their mission."

In supporting 1-1 Cav's mission, the Mighty Main crew has done everything from providing fuel to repairing damaged weapons and vehicle parts.

"We supply the Cav. with all the fuel that they need throughout their gunnery," said SSG Joseph Lucas, petroleum supply noncommissioned office in charge. "Throughout this gunnery, we have provided them with over 60,000 gallons of fuel."

Not only do the Mighty Main Soldiers help keep 1-1 Cav's vehicles moving, but they also help keep their weapons firing.

"We provide armament support," said SGT David Jones, 123rd MSB armament section chief.

"That is, (we fix) all the things that make rounds go down range. We test electronics to look for me-

chanical faults in weapons. Depending on the complexity of the fault, it could take days to figure out what needs to be fixed."

During 1-1 Cav's gunnery, the Black Hawks engage in both day and night fire exercises. 123rd's Mighty Main Missile Team ensures the troops can view a clear night picture on their Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

"Without our job they wouldn't be able to properly engage a target," said SGT Steven Christopher, electronic missile system NCOIC.

"We've been on almost every Bradley out here and done some sort of level of maintenance and trouble-shooting on it."

"We've had a heavy work load, continued SGT Christopher. "When we got here, we were working every night past 10 p.m., sometimes later."

The long hours that the Soldiers of 123rd spent maintaining 1-1 Cav's equipment was well appreciated.

"What we're doing out here is a valuable job," said SGT Christopher, "The Cav. has expressed the same sentiments."

"They mean everything to us," said LTC John A. Peeler, 1-1 Cav. squadron commander.

"Apache, Bandit and Comanche can't function

without the elements of Headquarters Troop, and Headquarters Troop can't function without the support that the 123rd gives them. They're integrated as a part of the team and they are really a part of the Black Hawk family."

"Reality is, things break. So, we fix them," said SGT Jones. "And we're glad to be here to do just that."



SPC Kurtis Bowen, a generator mechanic with the 123rd Main Support Battalion, runs a test on a thermal energy system for the 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment's M1A1 Abrams Tank.



SMA Returns Home to Iron Division

Story and Photos by
PFC Tanya C. Polk

Iron Soldiers welcomed home the 13th Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Kenneth O. Preston at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield, March 21.

The former 1st Armored Division command sergeant major visited the Soldiers of the airfield to address their concerns and provide his insight on today's United States Army.

"It's great to be home," said SMA Preston to a large crowd of Soldiers.

"It's always good to come back to the Iron Division. It holds a special place in my heart."

In addition to sharing his heartfelt gratitude to be "home," SMA Preston also shared quality time with several junior enlisted Soldiers for lunch at the WAAF dining facility.

What Soldier's concerns were not brought to SMA Preston's attention at lunch were later addressed at the Flyers Theater. SMA Preston touched on concerns to include the Army Combat Uniform, physical training, promotion, deployment, pay scale and education.

His primary focus, however, was "predictability and stability."

"The intent is to keep the team together," said SMA Preston.

SMA Preston stated that the



Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston speaks to a crowd of Wiesbaden based Soldiers at the Flyers Theater, March 21. There, he addressed the Soldiers' concerns and provided his insight on today's Army.

Army is edging towards implementing more brigade combat teams and keeping Soldiers at their duty station for five to seven years.

"Imagine going into a life cycle knowing that 18 to 20 months from now your unit will deploy," he said. "That's the kind of predictability that we want to provide Soldiers and their families."

SMA Preston said that more than half of Soldiers in the Army are married, and due to short life cycles the spouses are unable to find employment. Embedding more BCT's will allow longer life cycles and benefit the Soldier's spouses, he said.

"I see opportunities for our military spouses greatly improving," he added.

Preston ended his visit by inviting Soldiers to recite the Soldier's Creed.

SPC Nicole Richter, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1AD joined her fellow Soldiers to recite the Soldier's Creed.

"The Soldier's Creed means everything to me," said SPC Richter. "All Soldiers should live by this creed."

"Tell the Army story," Preston encouraged all of the Wiesbaden based Soldiers.

"Tell about all the great things you are doing."

to Iron Division





Iron Medics Excel at USAREUR Expert Field Medical Competition

Story and photos by PFC Tanya C. Polk

Eight medics within the U.S. Army European footprint put their combat skills to the test as they competed in an Expert Field Medical Competition, at the Klosterforst Training Area in Kitzingen Feb. 22-24.

SSG William Thurston, Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion, and SSG John Williams, Division Support Command, represented the 1st Armored Division as they took a stab at the competition.

The EFMC is a 56-hour individual competition that tests a Soldier's overall medical, physical, technical and tactical skills.

"We wanted to run EFMC here in USAREUR because we haven't had a chance to do any kind of competition for the medics," said SFC Michael Moyer, EFMC noncommissioned officer in charge with Company B, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

"What makes this so important is that each one of the candidates already have their expert field medical badge and this is an individual competition between those badge holders to be basically the top medic- the best of the best," he said.

Before these medics could claim their best of the best title they had to undergo several tasks to include a written exam, physical fitness test, weapons qualification, day and night land navigation, obstacle course, a 12-mile road march, and combat medical lanes.

Competitors agreed it was crucial to prepare for EFMC.

"I had to study a lot and keep up with PT," said Thurston.

SSG Thurston's physical fitness preparation helped him complete the obstacle course in only seven minutes.

The combat medical lanes are obstacles of their own. Medics had to complete three CML lanes, each in an hour, which were comprised of medical scenarios, treating and evacuating casualties as well as tactical scenarios such as reacting to contact.

"The hardest thing here is to remember all the steps to each scenario," said SGT Corey Barnes, EFMC evaluator with Company C, Landstuhl. "Each time a competitor misses a step, it's a point lost."

Iron Soldiers supported the medics throughout the competition. SPC Octavious Rhymes, a mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1 AD acted as infantry support for the medics a combat medical lane.

"I'm having a lot of fun," said SPC Rhymes.

"I'm learning a lot about the field environment because I don't get to do much of that



SSG William Thurston, Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion, swings over a barrier in an obstacle course during the Expert Field Medical Competition, Feb. 23. SSG Thurston completed the obstacle course in seven minutes.



SSG John Williams, a medical intelligence noncommissioned officer with 1st Armored Division's Division Support Command, treats a patient during an Expert Field Medical Competition in Kitzingen, Feb. 23. Williams is one of eight competing Soldiers who have earned an Expert Field Medical Badge and are competing in a 56 hour competition testing their medical, physical, technical and tactical skills. Williams will go on to compete at Fort Sam, Houston in an Army-wide competition this May.

working in the motor pool."

Eleven Iron Soldiers in all assisted with the medic competition in various roles to include light infantry and assimilated casualties.

Thurston and Williams will go on to compete at an

Army-wide EFMC at Fort Sam, Houston in May.

"This shows that I can step outside the box to compete," said Williams.

"And, if my Soldiers ever want to do the same, I'll be able to train them just how to do so."



Ready First Combat Team in Iraq

Photos courtesy of 1BCT





1BCT Making A Difference for Iraq

The Ready First Brigade Combat Team is wrapping up Operation Ready Lancer.

Soldiers with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, composed of units from both Friedberg and Baumholder, has been successful during their deployment partially due to the additional training they received when they first landed in Kuwait.

“The time in Kuwait was well spent. We did some additional training down there that just brought us up one level higher than when we left Germany,” said COL Sean McFarland, 1BCT Commander during an interview with the Armed Forces Network. “And, that’s what set us up for success when we moved into Iraq to begin operations.”

These Iron Soldiers built strong partnerships with Iraqi Security Force counterparts through a series of patrols, intelligence driven cordons and raids and even two air assaults.

Due to the efforts of the Soldiers working in close cooperation with the Iraqi Security Forces and the local leaders, 1BCT has not experienced the Shia-Sunni violence that has afflicted other parts of the country. On March 6, over 30 local Sunni and Shia leaders from the community hosted a joint prayer service for peace to help bring

Out on a mission, Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division support Iraqi freedom by conquering the enemy. Photo courtesy of 1BCT.



A Soldier with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division greets Iraqi children in Tal Afar, Iraq. Photo courtesy of 1BCT.



Locked and loaded, Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division defend the Iraqi people against insurgents in Tal Afar, Iraq. Photo courtesy of 1BCT.

the people together to discuss Muslim brotherhood and reconciliation.

“The local population here, really appreciates us and it really shows,” said COL McFarland.

The children have grown to embrace the Ready First who patrol the neighborhoods and keep them safe.

Soldiers are often swarmed by neighborhood children who enjoy the opportunity to try to interact with the Americans. The kids also want to be around the Soldiers as they are known to share small treats and candy with them.

“We were able to control two areas that were previously hostile and now when you walk through there you encounter almost nothing but smiling kids,” said COL McFarland.

“They’re making a difference,” continued COL McFarland. “The enemy just isn’t great enough.”

(Editors note: Information in this article was compiled from the Armed Forces Network and 1BCT)



1AD Combat Lifesavers Assure Families a Safer Battlefield

Story by PFC Tanya C. Polk

Medics on the battlefield are limited and may not be able to meet every casualty's needs on time. The 1st Armored Division is assuring family members that Soldiers are safer by training them on proper battlefield medical care prior to deployment.

In accordance with Army regulations, 1 AD requires one Soldier per squad and per vehicle to be Combat Lifesaver certified. Iron Medics are helping to sustain this requirement by instructing the Combat Lifesaver Course to all Iron Soldiers.

"Combat lifesaver is a bridge between the regular Soldier skills and the medic," said CPT William J. Bowman, CLS program director and division surgeon with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1 AD.

"It's not intended to replace the medic, but it is intended to provide heightened medical awareness training to the Soldiers."

The combat lifesaver course provides instruction that helps save lives on the battlefield.

After a one-week course of first aid briefs and hands-on training to include evaluating a casualty, administering an IV, splinting, transporting a casualty, and heat and cold injuries, a Soldier can be CLS certified.

"The tasks taught here rebuild on what they were taught in basic training," said CPT Bowman.

Ensuring that these Soldiers are capable of assuming CLS status, instructors grade them on both a written and hands-on exam.

"The certification is good for a year, and Soldiers then are recertified after taking a refresher course," said MSG Daniel Massa, chief medical noncommissioned officer in charge with HHC, 1 AD.

The Iron Medics not only certify division headquarters, but they certify the 141st Signal Battalion, 1 AD band, and Air Force combat controllers who are attached to HHC, 1 AD.



CPT William J. Bowman, combat lifesaver director and 1st Armored Division Surgeon assists 1AD officers in administering an Intravenous fluid (IV) during a CLS class at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield in March. Photo by MAJ Michael Indovina.

The combat lifesaver course has proven to be effective.

"We can look at the increased amount of patients that we're saving on the battlefield," said CPT Bowman. "We have more and more people coming back now that would have had life-threatening injuries."

To better assist the combat lifesavers, 1st Armored Division is receiving new medical equipment.

"We are getting new first aid kits, new tourniquets, and new techniques that doctors have studied," said MSG Massa. "CLS is changing to become more aggressive to life saving techniques."

CPT Bowman and MSG Massa describe the importance of CLS.

"It's what's making the difference on the battlefield," he said. "The more training that we can put out there at the point of injury, the better chance a Soldier has at living" said CPT Bowman.

"It is very important for the Soldiers to be educated on this not only for the Army or the mission, but for their family and their comrades," said MSG Massa.

7th CSG Soldiers Connect with Greatest Generation

Story by Nancy Marquardt

3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs

Eight 7th Corps Support Soldiers and a member of the USAREUR Army Band met up with members of our nation's greatest generation March 21 when they participated in a commemorative ceremony honoring veterans from the 65th and 71st Infantry Divisions in Passau, Germany. The relationships forged between the Soldiers and their World War II counterparts confirmed that Soldiers of all generations share a common bond in the successes and challenges they face.

World War II historian and author Anna Rosmus who grew up in Passau, arranged the ceremony. Rosmus spent much of the past decade researching the roles the 71st and 65th played in liberating prisoners from Nazi concentration camps near her small hometown. The ceremony, held at the ancient Mariahilf convent overlooking the city, was one of several she coordinated to honor the veterans during a two-week tour of Danube River Valley.

"I wanted a just tribute to these liberators for the sacrifices they made to free those who were held captive by an unjust tyrant. After all these years, I wanted them recognized for their heroic acts," said Rosmus.



"We were proud to have been chosen for this mission, and wanted to make our contribution to the ceremony particularly memorable," said SSG Assane Gueye, 7th CSG color guard.

Veterans who spoke about their six-decade-old experiences represented both divisions.

At the reception and gala dinner that followed, the Soldiers listened as the veterans shared stories of discovering mass graves where bodies were stacked like cordwood, and ensuring a proper military burial for the thousands who had suffered such indignity in death.

The young Soldiers discovered that in their time, these veterans had endured deployments lasting three years or more with no furlough. Veteran Stephen Mahoney explained, "Once you shipped out with a unit, you stayed with that unit until you all went home together. We didn't have periodic redeployments and R & R like they do today."

"Although it made for a long separation from our loved ones, our units became our families and we learned to read each other and operate effectively both in and out of battle," he said.

Mickey Dorsey, a former 71st Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop gunner and radio commander for the 71st Infantry Division connected with the Soldiers as he shared his experiences with them.

1st Armored Division Assistant Division Commander (Support) BG Michael Tucker, who Dorsey considers a surrogate son said, "Mickey represents one of the finest examples of America's greatest generation... to know him is to love him."

7th Corps Support Soldiers honor World War II Veterans at commemorative ceremony in Passau, Germany.



Preparing the Train of Success

Story and Photo by SPC Jennifer McFadden



Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, clear the railhead to load M 577 Mobile Command Posts and M 270 launchers to awaiting railcars in Baumholder, Germany, March 7. These vehicles will be transported to the Grafenwoehr Training Area for an 11-day multiple launch rocket system training event.

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division, conducted a railhead operation Mar 7, in Baumholder, Germany, loading M 270 Launchers and M 577 Mobile Command Posts on railcars headed for Grafenwoehr.

"The exercise is designed to teach Soldiers how to load and unload their vehicles," said SFC Tony Thomas, the battalion security manager and noncommissioned officer in charge of the operation.

"They need to know how to safely get their equipment from point A to point B."

The morning started off a little slow when it was discovered that the rail switch, to bring the train to the designated ramp, was frozen. With a decision to move the load site to another set

of ramps, the Soldiers jumped into action.

"They grabbed shovels and brooms to clear the railcars without complaint. The unit has a great sense of team pride and camaraderie and really know how to knock a mission out," said Thomas.

For new Soldiers like PVT Luis Cruz, a fire control missions specialist, the railhead operation provides training not previously given in his Advanced Individual Training.

"We can't possibly learn everything in AIT so it is excited to be doing something new," PVT Cruz said. "I can't wait to get to Grafenwoehr to fire our rockets."

While railheading, Soldiers anxiously awaited their upcoming mission.

"This is why I signed up," PVT Cruz said about the upcoming gunnery training.

"I can't wait to blow things up."

Story and Photo by
SPC Jennifer McFadden

"Flexible Six this is Flexible Main. Do you have the mission, over?"

"Flexible Main this is Flexible Six. Yes, we have the mission and we are a go, out."

As chatter could be heard on the radio, a Multiple Launch Rocket System emerged from behind cover.

The command "Arm" was given, then "Fire."

A flash of light and a trail of smoke tore through the grey skies of the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany.

Rolling out with the wind, billowing clouds of smoke revealed a single MLRS on the horizon sending rocket after rocket living up to its name Grid Smasher.

The batteries of 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Baumholder, Germany rail headed their equipment and headed to Grafenwoehr for an 11-day battalion-qualification event.

The three artillery batteries and radar battery that form the ranks of 1-94 FA began their journey in Baumholder, Germany. The

troops packed their bags and headed to GTA for the first battalion qualification since Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The focus of the live-fire event was experience, practice and more practice.

"Our units typically get 162

rockets really gives this exercise a realistic feel to it," said SGT Steven Panagiotou. "I enjoy the practice and being out here with my crew."

Firing that many rockets gives the Soldiers practice and hands on experience some have never had.

things by pitching tents and rolling out sleeping bags.

"The weather has been brutal and cold," said Valle. "I am really proud of all my fellow Soldiers for braving these conditions."

The training, held both during the day and at night displayed the true power of the battalion.

"This unit is vital in the global war on terror, we clear the way for the ground troops. It is nice to show the division what an asset we really are," said Valle

Completing At My Command, When Ready, and Time on Target missions gives the battalion a little extra

practice and a boost in confidence. "I am just so proud of their improvement over the last 12 months," said LTC Patrick Hogan 1-94 FA's battalion commander.

"They are really broadening their horizons."

1-94 FA Lights Up Grafenwoehr



Charlie Battery Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, light up the skies of the Joint Multinational Training Center in a night fire operation, March 16. The event was part of an 11 day training exercise.

training rockets a year," said MAJ Thomas Crowson, 1-94 FA's training Officer in charge.

"But because of MLRS units closing down across the U.S. Army Europe footprint we able to fire over 300 rockets in just this exercise."

"Being able to shoot this many

"This is my first time firing this many rockets," said SSG Salvador Valle, a section chief with Battery A 1-94FA.

"This kind of exercise is important to build a better team and to become more proficient."

Soldiers, participating in this event, really got into swing of



Striker Brigade Trains in Kuwait

Sling Load Training with Navy Chopper Gives 2BCT Extra Skill to Keep Supplies Moving

Story and photo by
1LT Patrick Warren
1-35 Armored Regiment

To succeed in a combat zone, it is critical for a unit to ensure it can constantly supply its forces with equipment, ammunition, food, parts and water using every means available to provide supplies under any conditions and at any location.

For the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, this vital supply mission falls into the hands of the 47th Forward Support Battalion. Battalion Soldiers recently took time to further their skill in employing one of its vital methods of getting "beans and bullets" to the troops — the sling load.

Sling loading is a process which uses helicopters to quickly deliver supplies to locations standard convoys cannot reach, carrying the load in a sling beneath the chopper.

The training provided the Soldiers of Company A, 47th FSB, who normally process parts for the BCT, with the ability to execute sling load missions as a secondary task.

Air-lifting heavy items requires special attention to safely deliver supplies such as field meals, water, ammunition and small vehicles.

The Company A Soldiers first learned the hand and arm signals necessary to guide a helicopter prior to loading the cargo, before moving on to actually rigging a sling load.

In a Joint twist on the training, the Soldiers had the opportunity to train using a U.S. Navy Sea Stallion transport helicopter, which presents different challenges than using Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"Because the aircraft is coming in at a sharp angle, the rotor wash makes it hard to keep balanced while grounding helicopters," added Company A's SPC Ben C. Geertson.

As SPC Geertson practiced grounding, other Company A Soldiers centered the cargo to ensure it would remain stable once it was airborne. Still others secured the supplies on pallets and placed them on cargo nets.

When this was completed, the ends of the nets were wrapped around the loaded pallets and tied off with a hook connecting all the ends together.

"The most critical part is ensuring that the load is centered in the net, so that when it is picked up it does not sway back and forth," said SPC Eric Laubenstein, the company's sling load inspector certifier.

Once the load was secured within the cargo net, the ground crew moved into the landing zone.

With the aircraft in place, the ground crew attaches the load and signals the pilots that the cargo is ready for delivery.

A well-trained ground crew can attach the cargo within a matter of seconds; however, before the aircraft can take off, the crew must clear the area in order to avoid the rotor wash from the aircraft as it climbs.

Once the load is airborne, another aircraft can be called in to repeat the process.

The Soldiers of the 47th FSB who completed the sling load training are better prepared and have greater experience, confidence and flexibility for future support missions — skills that help to ensure the brigade can continue to fight.



SPC Eric Laubenstein and SPC Othello Porter of 1st Armored Division's Company A, 47th Forward Support Battalion, prepare a pallet of rations to be delivered via a sling load carried by a U.S. Navy Sea Stallion helicopter during training at Camp Buerhing, Kuwait.

4-27 FA Trains For New Mission As Motorized Rifle Company

Story and photo by
CPT Kirill A. Tsekanovskiy
4-27 Field Artillery Regiment

Soldiers of 1st Armored Division's Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery recently conducted their first Situational Training Exercise since the field artillery unit was given a new mission as a motorized rifle company.

The artillerymen continue to learn a different set of skills to become proficient in their new mission as a part of Task Force Gator.

The past few months of training here paid off recently, unit officials say, when they completed a successful platoon-level training exercise at Kuwait's Udairi Range Complex.

The Soldiers and NCOs of the battery began preparing for the complex exercise long before it was time to roll out.

"This is very different from artillery, because when firing howitzers everything is done by the book," said SGT Christopher Myers, a team leader with the battery's 2nd platoon. "But in the motorized infantry world, the book is just guidance that leaves a lot of room for improvisation."

The Soldiers took part in several iterations of weapons training on the complex's small arms ranges during the past few months, firing their automatic weapons and becoming familiar with newly assigned equipment such as M14 sniper rifles along with sight systems designed for day and night operations. The troops fired everything from 9mm pistols and 12 gauge shotguns to Squad Automatic Weapons and .50-caliber vehicle-mounted machine guns.

SGT Zachary Hudson and SPC Ebert Basnight, also from the battery's 2nd platoon, ensured Soldiers knew how to properly operate the weapon systems by teaching Primary Marksmanship Instruction prior to



Soldiers from 2nd Platoon of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery take part in improvised explosive device identification techniques prior to conducting a platoon situational training exercise on Kuwait's Udairi Range.

the range firing, while the platoon's SPC Aaron Hewes taught classes on casualty-carrying techniques and medical evacuation procedures.

As part of the culmination of all this training, 2nd platoon Soldiers trained with their various support elements to carry out a convoy logistics patrol. The mission for the training was to escort a convoy to resupply units at a distant patrol base. The second phase of the exercise tested their skills in route clearance.

Members of the battery say the tough, realistic training resulted in lost sleep and little time to eat, but it also proved that the artillerymen had a foundation upon which to build further knowledge.

"Our new job is a lot different, Basnight said, "but we are now more flexible and able to accomplish multiple tasks with minimal coordination. This keeps us in a higher state of readiness to accomplish any mission, any time, anywhere."



“OPFOR” Blend into Training to Give 2BCT Realistic View of Today's Combat

Soldiers from the 3rd platoon of 1st Armored Division's Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion (without helmets) portray civilians on the battlefield during a recent training exercise in Kuwait for the company's 2nd platoon.
Photo by CPT Kris Haley



Story by 1LT Bledy Taka, 2nd Brigade Combat Team

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division's Task Force Regulars recently conducted a Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise, the most realistic scenario Soldiers might face while in combat.

A CALFEX focuses all the individual elements of task force on a single battlefield training scenario. During their training, task force members of Task Force Regulars honed their skills in urban training centers where Soldiers acting as “enemies” and “civilians” played a key role in the battlefield realism. The training took into account that in the Army's current combat operations it has become more difficult for Soldiers to identify the enemy and distinguish them from local civilians.

During the exercise the role-players, known as opposing forces or OPFOR, blended in with the local population and posed as everyday civilians on the battlefield. This increased the difficulty of the scenario for the exercise's friendly forces. The OPFOR had to interact with the local population without being easily identified as enemy combatants.

Because local intelligence is paramount in exposing insurgent cells, the Soldiers taking part in the training learned that they have to build relationships with the civilian population to quickly learn and recognize enemy forces. Thus the training also emphasized the importance of civilians on the battlefield in gathering intelligence and conducting counter-insurgency operations.

“It was fun being (a role-player portraying an enemy soldier), but we also learned a lot of things, such as not everybody ... is a combatant and not all civilians are out to get you. Some of the civilians can be helpful with information,” said SPC Adam Tyler of Company A, 40th Engineer Battalion, a part of Task Force Regulars.

The Soldiers who acted as OPFOR and civilians on the battlefield helped the friendly forces experience a more realistic view of the battlefield while developing a better understanding of what to expect when they go into combat situations.

“Sometimes being OPFOR, you get better training because you can (immediately) see what goes wrong and you can learn from that,” said SSG Sean Reilly.



Task Force Eagle Soars in to Support Pakistan Relief Effort

Story by SPC Jennifer McFadden

Oct. 8, 2005, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake ripped through Pakistan leveling cities in the north eastern Kashmir region killing more than 75,000 people and leaving over 3.5 million homeless and in need of help.

This event has been called the largest natural disaster in the countries 58 year history.

Approaching winter, an immediate response was called for by not only the Pakistani government but the entire international community.

The United States mobilized military units from around the world to provide aviation, medical, engineering, and logistical support to the effected communities.

Task Force Eagle was led by the 4th Aviation Brigade commander, 1st Infantry Division, Hanau COL Robert Johnson Jr. He was joined by 39 of his Soldiers and three Soldiers from 7th Corp Support Group.

This multinational task force supported and helped coordinate the largest global humanitarian aid operation in history.

"This mission was so important in a humanitarian aspect," said Johnson. "It was so rewarding to help those devastated by this tragedy."

The task force, comprising of many units and countries to include elements from 12th Aviation Brigade and 1st Cavalry Division, were joined by Reserve units from Kansas, Texas, Washington and Colorado. The British and Australian military also

provided Soldiers and equipment.

"I believe Colonel Johnson may have explained the international flavor of the operation best when he described a mission with a British Chinook and crew, commanded by an American task force, delivering Iranian made tents to the Pakistani victims of the earthquake," said MG Kenneth W. Hunzeker, the 1st Infantry Division commander, at a welcome home ceremony in March.



A Soldier hands out candy to the children of Pakistan effected by the October 8 earthquake. Photos courtesy of USAF Combat Camera and Soldiers of Task Force Eagle.

From November 2005 until their departure in March of this year the task force flew more than 5,600 accident-free hours.

"The best surprise was the professionalism of the other countries. We are so proud to have been able to facilitate that many hours of flying without injury to

our Soldiers or damage to anyone's equipment," said CPT Jeffery Christy, the assistant operations officer of Task Force Eagle.

Flying this many hours the task force was able to deliver about 28,000,000 pounds of blankets, clothing, food and medical supplies.

"We worked every day, including Thanksgiving and Christmas, to try and help these people. It was wonderful to see the kids and to know you were giving them what they need," said SSG David Gonzales, the task force's pick-up zone noncommissioned officer in charge.

Along with delivering supplies this task force was able to coordinate the transport of more than 19,000 passengers and conducted 3,751 casualty evacuations.

"All my Soldiers did a great job," said COL Johnson. "I hope they can look back with fond memories to the people that they helped."



Led by COL Robert Johnson, 4th Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division commander, the Task Force Eagle crew was honored for their relief efforts at a welcome home ceremony in Hanau, Germany.



1AD in the Field for Iron Focus III

Story by SPC Matthis Chiroux

Exercise Iron Focus III, a 1st Armored Division-sponsored command post exercise, went in full swing in February at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

The CPX provides non-deployed troops from the 1st Armored Division and other affiliated units a chance to test their field equipment and hone their field skills. Iron Focus III is providing commanders and operational-level staff the opportunity to test their abilities in combat planning, coordination and battle tracking of full spectrum military operations from a deployed command post.

The scenario, simulating a 1st AD retaliatory attack into a fictitious country, is utilizing all of the same tools it would during a real world scenario. From radio communications to field chow for hungry troops, if it would be needed downrange, the 1st AD has it on the ground at the airfield.

While no combat maneuvers are physically occurring, sophisticated computers running state-of-the-art



PVT Kris Singleton, HHC, 1AD, provides Soldiers with fuel used for generators throughout Iron Focus III. Photo by SPC Matthis Chiroux.

combat simulation programs are being utilized by the leaders of the 1st AD to provide them with a clear picture of what would be happening if they were directing actual units in a real-world scenario.

The result of this training: 1 AD will be more capable of utilizing all of its assets quickly and effectively should a real-world scenario ever arise that would

require their immediate response, said MG Fred D. Robinson Jr., the 1st AD commander.

"Soldiers must always be prepared for battle. They must always be ready to grab their gear and go," said MG Robinson. "By routinely putting them through realistic training we ensure that when they find themselves in battle they will be able to out fight any opposing force."

Upon completion of Iron Focus III, participating personnel will conduct after action reviews and will begin breaking down the camps and returning to their garrisons across Germany.

This is the third Iron Focus exercise conducted by the 1 AD since MG Robinson assumed command in July of 2005. According to MG Robinson, providing realistic training to his troops and ensuring they remain prepared for battle at all times is his highest priorities as the commander of the 1st AD.

(Editor's note: Iron Focus III occurred in February 2006.)



PFC Dana Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division unloads prepared lunches for Soldiers through the Iron Focus exercise. Photo by PFC Tanya C. Polk.

141st Signal Battalion: Backbone of Communication

Story and Photo by SPC Matthis Chiroux

Exercise Iron Focus III has commenced here, and elements of the 1st Armored Division are using complex secure and non-secure computer networks and phone lines in a field environment to accomplish their missions. The infrastructure that supports these networks does not just appear on command, and setting it up is more than just a point-and-click operation.

1 AD's 141st Signal Battalion has the tools and skilled personnel needed to raise such an infrastructure here or on the battlefield.

141's Charlie Company supported Exercise Iron Focus III. Their mission was to provide communications for the entire exercise.

"We are providing network support, telephones and radio communications for all of this," said SFC Roscoe Johnson, the Co. C first sergeant.

"We got out here a week before anyone and will be the last to leave."

In the sub-freezing temperatures of a German winter, SFC Johnson's Soldiers raised antennas, ran

miles of wire and hooked every section of 1AD into a computer network large enough to support the entire operation. Working out of the backs of trucks known as node centers, Co. C troops, from privates to noncommissioned officers, are overseeing every aspect of electronic communications that occur at the exercise site.

"We are the backbone of communications out here," said SFC Johnson, "and we are learning to do more with less."

The majority of Co. C is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ones who stayed in Germany are the ones who were massed together to accomplish the Iron Focus III mission.

"This exercise is exposing a lot of our Soldiers as true leaders," said CPT Diane Klein,

the Co. C commander. "We have a lot of PFCs having to step up into more leadership roles. Everybody is improving."

Upon completion of Iron Focus III, Co. C will remain in the field until the need for communications at the exercise site has diminished, at which point they will pack up their equipment and head home.

"This is just what we do," said SFC Johnson, nodding his head, "and we have a good time doing it."



Behind the scenes, a Soldier with the 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division ensures the computer network systems are up-and-running for the Iron Focus III exercise.



Iron Medics Prepared On or Off the Battlefield

Story by PFC Tanya C. Polk

Accidents can happen, at anytime. But, the Iron Medics of the 1st Armored Division are always ready to treat those accidents on or off the battlefield.

Throughout Exercise Iron Focus III, 1 AD medics are supporting exercise participants by providing them with medical attention.

"Our mission is to provide medical care to all the Soldiers who need it," said PFC Lyndsey P. McConnell, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1 AD.

"At the same time we are keeping the company up to date with their immunizations and visual agility tests."

Multi-tasking is just a way of life for these Iron medics, said SSG Todd Rowe, treatment team noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The whole idea is that when we take our feet out of the vehicle and when we hit the ground, we have to be prepared to treat a casualty," said SSG Rowe, "and, we can do that."

"It's what we call tailgate medicine. We're prepared to handle casualties until our aid station is set up and fully manned," said SSG Rowe.

Preparing the aid station was also on the medics agenda for Iron Focus III.

"Setting up was a very intricate task, but we pulled together and were able to set everything up very quickly," said PVT Stewart Quinn, a medic with HHC.

Iron medics were ready and equipped to treat patients the mo-

ment the exercise kicked off.

"We have aid chests that are set up with everything we need to treat any patient for anything having to do with airway blockages, bleeding, burns and fractures," said PFC McConnell. "We also have IV kits ready to give the patient the moment they arrive."

Although prepared for the worst trauma incidents, the medics have only had to deal with minor issues during Iron Focus III.

"Thus far we've seen just regular sick call and we have taken care of few post trauma accidents where the Soldiers have had reoccurring pain from a previous incident," said SSG Rowe.

But, training has still been effective for SSG Rowe's crew.

"Due to this hands-on exercise, I've learned a lot," said PFC McConnell. "I've learned how to assess a sick call patient, and I've been learning new things every day."

(Editor's note: Iron Focus III occurred in February 2006.)



SPC Rachel Moist, medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, prepares to help patients in the field during Iron Focus III. Photo by SPC Michael Acevedo

Mighty Main Battalion Cuts the Ribbon to a New Future

Story and Photo by
SPC Jennifer McFadden

In a ribbon cutting ceremony held Feb. 22, COL Guy Beougher, 1st Armored Division's, Division Support Command brigade commander and LTC James Kinkade, commander of 123rd Main Support Battalion, officially opened the Driver Simulator building on Anderson Barracks, Dexheim.

Being one of three in the Army and the only heavy wheeled vehicle simulator system of its kind in Europe, the simulator is designed to have the form, fit and feel of driving six groups of heavy military vehicles from Hemmets to 5-tons by utilizing a hydraulics system, realistic instrument panels and a numerous scenario program.

"We want to avoid Soldier casualties due to inexperience," COL Beougher said.

"We have a system now that Soldiers can use to be better drivers. We want to make our mistakes here, in simulation instead of the real world where we lose lives."

"For first time drivers, using the simulator has show to decrease the percentage of accidents in Germany by 19 percent," said SGT Derwood Sloan, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 123rd Main Support Battalion's Driver's Academy.

With seven skill levels and an abundant of variables, the scenario possibilities are almost endless for not only the 1 AD Soldiers, but all Soldier across the U.S. Army Europe footprint.



SGT Derwood Sloan, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the 123rd Main Support Battalion's Driver's Academy and a Soldier with the 123rd MSB test out the simulator in a demonstration held for Soldiers, local press and COL Guy Beougher, 1AD's Division support brigade commander, Feb 22 at the systems new location, Anderson Barracks, Dexheim, Germany.

The simulator also has three different dashboards representing various military vehicles to produce an accurate training environment.

Practical skills, driving in hazardous conditions and decision making skills are just a few focus points of the program.

"We can change the weather, the traffic levels and even the behavior of the traffic," explained SGT Sloan.

"The driver can drive in the city, on the Autobahn (or highway) or off road. There is even a course through cones to teach maneuverability," Sloan said.

"If drivers can drive here with a perfect score they can drive anywhere through any condition."

The driver simulator system is open to anyone in the USAREUR footprint.

To schedule a particular section or unit for training contact the Training Support Center at DSN 337-5006 or civilian 06117055006.



Iron Warrior Training

Preparing Combat Support Units for Full-Spectrum Operations

Story and Photos by
SPC Jennifer Mcfadden

On today's battlefield, Soldiers have to defend themselves; being ready at any moment in any given situation.

The Iron Warrior Program is an individual and collective training program that incorporates the chief of staff of the Army's nine Core Warrior Drills, the 40 Warrior tasks, V CORPS directed drills, and Common Task Training of 2005 for individual training, and individual-crew-convoy gunnery training to provide a collective collaboration of all their skills.

"The Iron Warrior Program was developed to ensure all units and its Soldiers are secure in their abilities to accomplish any mission on any battlefield," said SGM Thomas Klingel, the 1st Armored Division's training and operations sergeant major.

In the past only combat military occupational specialties such as infantry, armor, engineer, and artillery units have focused training time and resources on such specialized training. Yet now however, combat support and combat service support units are required to complete this training every year.



Soldiers with the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion also participated in the Iron Warrior Training that was conducted at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, March 2006.

"This is changing the way we (the Army) do business," said MAJ Roger Gaines, the officer in charge of 141st Signal Battalion's training and operations.

"A 141 Signal Soldier can go out here and does all of this, but an infantry guy would have a hard time climbing into a truck and fixing our technical systems," he said to his Soldiers as they prepared to complete their final task, live-fire convoy operations.

"The Soldiers love this kind of training. It gives them the confidence they need to go down range and participate in this now unconventional war fare," said SSG Michael Pietron, 141's Small Arms Master Marksman. "We now have a 360 degree frontline and we all have to be prepared," he explained.

The Small Arms Master Marksman (SAMM) is responsible for planning, implementing, and supervising the unit's small arms gunnery training and convoy operations in support of the unit mission.

The Iron Warrior program is designed to instill the Warrior ethos, to become proficient in the critical tasks of attack and defense through the employment

of dismounted situational training exercises, convoy gunnery procedures, and creating resident small arms expertise in every company unit.

The Iron Warrior program is now an annual requirement for all combat support and combat service support units and upon notification of deployment, units will be required to have completed the Iron Warrior Program within six months of deployment.

"We are all Soldiers and we need to know how to be Soldiers as we as knowing our job," said PVT Danielle Dye, a Soldier with Company C, 141st Signal Battalion.

"Convoy live fires are the culminating event of the program, but how we get every Soldier prepared prior to that convoy live fire is what the Iron Warrior program is all about," said SGM Klingel.

After performing the nine Core Warrior Drills, reacting to contact, avoiding ambush, reacting to ambush, reacting to indirect fire, reacting to chemical attack, breaking contact, dismounting a vehicle, evacuating injured personnel from a vehicle and securing at a halt, the Soldiers move on to the V Corps drills.

The V Corps Drills, which include, preparing and Operating a vehicle in a convoy, calling for fire, requesting



SPC Jay Barras, a Squad Automatic Weapon's gunner with the 141st Signal Battalion, laid down suppressive fire in a dry fire convoy exercise.

close air support, preparing for combat, reacting to snipers and even the handling of prisoners of war, are combined with the 40 warrior tasks and the 2005 Common Task Training list to prepare the combat support Soldier for the final task, Convoy live-fire.

In addition to the compiling a list of tasks officials included where Soldiers could incorporate these tasks into their training. All the tasks the Soldiers acquire are then applied to gunnery tables where each task must be accomplished to yield mission success.

The Iron Warrior gunnery tables are based off a series of 12 tables of both individual and collective training. They follow a sequential progression from individual qualification to crew qualification and convoy live fires.

The culmination of the gunnery tables is table 12 convoy live fire qualification.

"Everything is put together here," said SGT Anthony Neal, a Network and Switch specialist with 141.

"With this great training we can make these tasks second nature. Practice, practice and more practice helps us stay alive down range."



A Soldier with 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division, engages a mock-enemy target during Table XI at the Grafenwoehr Training Area.



Observers/controllers with Company C, 141st Signal Battalion, instruct standard operating procedures to Soldiers engaging an enemy while on a convoy.



Wiesbaden Eagles Prevail in USAREUR, Arms Forces Basketball Tournaments

Story by Rusty Bryan, Stars and Stripes

The Wiesbaden Eagles used a variety of weapons March 19 in completing an unbeaten run through the 2006 Army-Europe community-level basketball tournament with a 107-91 championship game victory over Kaiserslautern.

"All my guys can shoot," Wiesbaden coach William Satterwhite said. "But the key to today's game was our defense. Every player who came off the bench knew exactly what to do in our man-to-man defense."

Satterwhite's players were coming off the bench, however, because of a three-point binge by Patrick Bates. Bates, who hit one of four attempts in the first half, was 6-for-8 in the final 20 minutes. He sank four in a 2½-minute span which saw Wiesbaden widen a 50-42 halftime lead to 72-54. Bates finished with 29 points.

"He's a pure three-point shooter," Wiesbaden's Londaryl Perry said of Bates.

Bates was open on the perimeter because of the play of 6-8, 320-pound Philea Williams on the inside. Williams, who displayed the grace and footwork of a much smaller player, scored 16 points and pulled down 22 rebounds.

"He's real smooth," Perry said.

"He's a basketball player. He has a great touch and soft hands. He can even bring the ball up the court."

He's also a good target for Wiesbaden's quick first-step penetrators, led by Perry.

Perry scored 19 points in the first half before turning the scoring duties over to Bates, then resumed that role when Kaiserslautern, which got 28 points from veteran Vincent Williams and 25 from Larry Bailey, closed within 12 down in the late going. Perry finished with 31.

"It helps to be able to hit the big man down low," he said.

Kaiserslautern, which dropped its winners-bracket game to Wiesbaden 103-99 on Friday, downed Hanau 88-68 in Sunday morning's losers' bracket final.

The expenditure of energy, however, left the Panthers too tired to cope with Wiesbaden.

"We got some rest last night," Perry said. "Today, we were on all cylinders."

Satterwhite, who took his company-level



SPC Londaryl Perry, a Soldier with 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division and team member for the Wiesbaden Eagles, accepts a trophy for his team from MG Fred D. Robinson Jr., 1 AD commanding general. In addition to the trophy, the Eagles were awarded two coins from MG Robinson for their win over USAREUR and the Arms Forces tournaments. Photo by

team to the Army-Europe unit-level title, had a different explanation.

"All my guys were hungry," he said.

Both teams then took their basketball appetites to the Army-Air Force Final Four tournament March 31-April 2 in Kaiserslautern..

"We had to dig deep," said Perry after the Eagles rebounded from an 84-69 loss to the Mildenhall Marauders in the first championship game and held off the Air Force champions 84-79 in the "if" game that followed.

"We had to fight," continued Perry. "After the first game, we re-evaluated our offense and adjusted our man-to-man defense."

"We had to go man. If we had played zone, they would have eaten us up. They're taller than we are, and they have those three-point shooters," he said.

Perry went on to score 20 of his game-high 32 points in the first half, including a three-pointer from 10 feet beyond the arc at the buzzer for a 42-31 halftime edge.

It didn't hurt Wiesbaden's cause, either, that the Eagles cut their first-half turnovers from 10 in the first game to five in the second.

With an 11-point lead halfway through, the game became a matter of defense and free throws for the soon-to-be champions.

"Everyone did what he had to do," summed up Satterwhite.



MG Fred D. Robinson Jr., 1st Armored Division commanding general, and CSM Roger P. Blackwood, 1 AD command sergeant major, congratulate the Wiesbaden Eagles on their victory over USAREUR and U.S. Air Force tournaments at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield, April 17. Photo by